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It ought, perhaps, to be said, that the judgment which we have expressed has been based chiefly upon a perusal of the first and second "series" of sermons. From a glance at the later volumes, we should think them somewhat less open to the criticism which we have made.

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14. — *The History and Life of the Reverend Doctor JOHN TAULER, of Strasbourg; with Twenty-Five of his Sermons.* (Temp. 1340.) Translated from the German, with additional Notices of Tauler's Life and Times, by SUSANNA WINKWORTH, Translator of "*Theologia Germanica*"; and a Preface by the REV. CHARLES KINGSLEY, Rector of Eversley and Canon of Middleham. With an Introduction by REV. ROSWELL D. HITCHCOCK, D. D., Washburn Professor of Church History in the Union Theological Seminary. New York: Wiley and Halsted. 1858. 8vo. pp. xxxix, 481.

A MAN five centuries old returning into the circle of Christian literature afresh is an attractive novelty. Good men of centuries past, restored to us by beautiful reprints and friendly passports from our choicest scholars, are a rich addition to the spiritual wealth of the times. A strong life, an historic career, in any one age, augments the life-force of some later age very beneficially, if so be a fit time and mode are chosen to secure the public attention. These conditions seem to us to be happily met in the case of Tauler. A Dominican monk, — an erudite, finely-moulded man, — uniting in a masterly manner philosophic acumen with common and popular modes of thought, and attaining to high fame in his own day, — such was this ancient mystic. He had yet higher claims; for, as a master in his order, he plainly pushed the circumferences of religious truth and liberty of conscience to fuller width and more distinct position. He was a sort of Protestant chrysalis, splitting the stiff cerements of both monk and mystic. The germs of the great revival were in him, as fire in the bones. The men of faith who heard from his lips those sermons, heard a strong voice crying in the wilderness about an approaching kingdom of light and release from the leaden midnight of Popery.

This book might be compared to a beautiful antique chateau, with many and almost cumbrous porches and anterooms to be passed through before reaching the throne-room where sits the author. First, Professor Hitchcock, the American editor, with characteristic pertinence receives the reader, and with a radiant, almost magnetic lamp, illuminates the historic era in part forming, and in part formed by, this "certain learned master in the city of Strasbourg." The living man

is before us. "Up and down the Rhine he itinerated from Strasbourg to Cologne, from Cologne to Strasbourg, in monasteries and churches, in market-places and in the fields, holding forth the Word of Life in the face of a hollow liturgic formalism." A few such vivid pages reconcile us to the claim of one whose long absence from popular acquaintance seems to forfeit his right to a hearing among men. A Preface by the Translator, Susanna Winkworth, is a well-drawn schedule of the toil and care spent on her part of the work. Rev. Charles Kingsley builds the next *atrium*, in a very fervent and careful, loving and laboring Preface. Then comes the "History and Life of the Reverend Doctor John Tauler," a most curious relic of mediæval biography. It is drawn through fourteen stately chapters, with antique side-notes, which, like the dormer windows of the old Strasbourg houses, let in rays of light very dimly and fantastically. A learned and long account of "Tauler's Life and Times," by the Translator, completes the series of ante-passages, all of which occupy nearly two hundred and thirty-four of the five hundred and nineteen pages of the book. The Sermons, twenty-seven in number, find their guiding themes in the ecclesiastical calendar, in feasts, fasts, and saints' days. They have the intensely introspective character found in so many of the sermons of that age, but are much more vital in doctrine and practical in their instruction than was then common.

The book is a fine copy of the antique in shape, type, ornaments, and all external features, and will more rapidly and exactly acquaint a reader with the thought, feeling, and faith of the century it comes from, than any recent record we have seen. We pronounce it a genuine gem among the restored treasures of its period.

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15. — *Three Eras of New England, and other Addresses, with Papers Critical and Biographical.* By GEORGE LUNT. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1857.

MR. LUNT is a writer and speaker of high ability and accomplishments. Trained from youth in the study of the best literature, and in the practice of the sturdy discipline of the law, his mind, originally vigorous as well as poetical, is peculiarly fitted to excel in the graver walks of authorship. He has been known for many years as a leading contributor to American periodical literature; he has written an excellent novel, in which the peculiar characteristics of New England society are ably delineated; and he has published several volumes of poems, which have given him a permanent literary reputation. It is